

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07 SOE-02
DODE-00 SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 EUR-12 PM-05 /111 W
-----052619 252321Z /73

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000
INFO USDOE WASHDC
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 3290

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, TECH, BR
SUBJ: POSSIBLE BRAZILIAN INTEREST IN US THORIUM REACTOR TECHNOLOGY

1. CONGEN RIO REPORTED THAT RESOURCE OFFICER (RO) WAS APPROACHED LAST WEEK BY BRAZILIAN BUSINESSMAN, RETIRED ADMIRAL AYRES CUNHA DE ANDRADE (THROUGH INTERMEDIARY, RETIRED US NAVAL OFFICER) TO EXPLORE INFORMALLY POSSIBILITY OF US/GOB COOPERATION IN THORIUM-FUELED REACTOR AREA. AYRES ALLEGEDLY HAS HAD RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH UNNAMED "GENERALS ON ACTIVE DUTY" INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING CONTACTS WITH US IN ORDER TO INVESTIGATE PROSPECTS FOR SUCH COOPERATION TO "SAVE FACE" IN NUCLEAR AREA.

2. FYI. AYRES IS RETIRED REAR ADMIRAL WITH MS DEGREE FROM MIT. EMBASSY HAD NO BACKGROUND INFO ON AYRES, BUT CONGEN BELIEVES HE HELD MAINLY TECHNICAL COMMANDS AND HAS SHOWN INTEREST IN THORIUM TECHNOLOGY IN PAST. ACCORDING TO INTERMEDIARY, AYRES INITIATIVE WAS TRIGGERED BY REMARKS HERE OF PRESIDENT. COINCIDENTALLY, SEVERAL EXTENSIVE NEWS ARTICLES APPEARED OVER WEEKEND ALLEGING DISSATISFACTION WITH THORIUM COOPERATION RESTRICTED TO FRG AND ASSERTING GREATER BRAZILIAN INTEREST IN UTILIZATION OF THORIUM IN WATER-COOLED SYSTEMS,
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ESPECIALLY PWR, THAN IN GAS-COOLED SYSTEMS. END FYI.

3. IF DEPARTMENT AGREES, EMBASSY PROPOSES TO HAVE SCIENCE COUNSELOR AND RO (PERSONALLY ACQUAINTED WITH AYRES) DISCUSS INFORMALLY WITH AYRES US THORIUM PROGRAM AND COOPERATION INITIATIVE OF THORIUM PAPER DELIVERED TO GOB AFTER SECRETARY'S VISIT OF NOVEMBER

1977. (THIS INITIATIVE HAS BEEN DISCUSSED INFORMALLY
WITH CNEN, NUCLEBRAS, WORKING LEVELS OF FONMIN AND
MINISTRY OF MINES AND ENERGY, AND NON-GOVERNMENT
SCIENTISTS SINCE ITS FORMAL DELIVERY TO SILVEIRA
AND UEKI LAST YEAR.)
JOHNSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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